



3 LAWS IMPACTING SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

USGS Citizen Science Workshop

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Paperwork Reduction Act

- Requires agencies to acquire OMB approval before collecting structured information from 10 or more members of the public annually.
 - Examples of a structured information collection could be a form, a web page survey, focus group, or a telephone survey set of questions, and mobile apps!
 - Public includes, but not limited to: individuals, partnerships, corporations, universities, nonprofit organizations, state, local, and tribal governments and agencies, and other associations and organizations, whether foreign or domestic. Federal agencies are not included.
 - What's the Point?
 - The PRA was enacted to minimize the burden that the government imposes on the public and improve the quality and use of Federal information.
 - Contact me early!
 - Process takes 6-9 months to obtain
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Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

5 U.S.C. § 552

- All USGS records are subject to the FOIA.
 - USGS promotes transparency, however some records might be withheld through exemptions.
 - Employee Responsibilities:
 - If you receive a request, immediately contact a FOIA representative to coordinate response.
 - Respond in a timely manner to FOIA representatives to avoid unnecessary litigation . (20 day time limit)
 - Comply with the general steps to process a FOIA request (outlined in GIP 140).
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Privacy Act of 1974

5 U.S.C. § 552(a)

- All USGS employees and contractors are responsible for protecting Personally Identifiable Information (PII – defined in OMB M-06-19)
- Post USGS Privacy Policy on the tools utilized to collect PII
- All major and minor applications must conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA).

Privacy Act of 1974

5 U.S.C. § 552(a)

- A Privacy Act System of Records (SORN) is a group of records about individuals from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by other easily linkable identifier, e.g., e-mail address, phone number.
 - New SORNs require approval from Congress and the DOI Secretary.
 - Report PII breaches or suspected breaches within one hour of the breach to USGS Computer Security Incident Response Team or Privacy Officer
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